

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NOUAKC 02941 220858Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05

SP-02 SS-15 L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 ACDA-12 EB-08 DOTE-00 /111 W

-----123483 221001Z /20

R 211700Z DEC 77

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8618

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY DAKAGQ

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

USMISSION USUN NY

CINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L NOUAKCHOTT 2941

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, SS, MR, SG, MO, AG, SA

SUBJECT: SAHARA WATCH: POLISARIO ATTACK RAIL LINE OUTPOST
AND SUYER HEAVY LOSSES

REF: (A) NOUAKCHT5 2912, (B) NOUAKCHOTT 2902

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: DECEMBER 20 ISSUE OYCGOVRNMENT-SPONSORED
NEWSPAPER CHAAB UNDER BANNER HEADLINE "100 DEAD AMONG ALGERIAN
MERCENARIES" REPORTS RESULTS OF LARGE CONFRONTATION WITH POLI-
SARIO ON DECEMBER 18. ACCORDING TO CHAAB, AN ENEMY COLUMN OF
60 VEHICLES ATTACKED TMEMICHATT (24 02 N, 11 55 W), AT 0730 A.M.
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18. TMEMICHATT IS AN IMPORTANT MILITARY OUT-
POST ALONG ZOUERATE-NOUADHIBOU RAIL LINE APPROXIMATELY 300
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NOUAKC 02941 220858Z

KILOMETERS EAST OF NOUADHIBOU. MOROCCAN AND MAURITANIAN (GIRM)
MILITARY UNITS SUCCESSFULLY REPULSED ATTACK AND RETREATING
POLISARIO FORCE WAS ATTACKED AT AZOUG, 40 KILOMTERES NORTH OF
TMEMICHATT, AND AGAIN AT AN UNSPECIFIED POINT NORTH OF AZOUG.
POLISARIO LOSSES LISTED AS 100 DEAD, 22 VEHICLES DESTROYED AND
MANY CREW-SERVED WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION CAPTURED OR DESTROYED,
INCLUDING TWIN-TUBED 23 MM, 75 MM AND B-10 PIECES. MAURITANIAN

LOSSES LISTED AS 35 DEAD, 20 INJURED, 4 DAMAGED VEHICLES, AND ONE FUEL DEPOT AND SEVERAL BUILDINGS IN TMEMICHATT DAMAGED.

2. ARTICLE ATTRIBUTES SUCCESS OF OPERATION TO CONTINUED DYNAMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN MAURITANIA AND MOROCCO AS THEY COMBAT AGGRESSION. IN SEPARATE EDITORIAL CHAAB, REFERRING TO HEAVY ENEMY LOSSES IN DECEMBER 12 (REFTEL B) AND DECEMBER 18 ATTACK ON RAIL LINE, LAUDS THE EFFICIENCY AND VIGILANCE OF "OUR" FORCES IN REPULSING ENEMY ATTACKS. IT STATES "YESTERDAY, IT WAS MOROCCAN AIRPOWER WHICH DESTROYED THE MERCENARY COLUMNS; TODAY IT IS FRENCH AIRPOWER (C'EST L'AVIATION FRANCAISE) AND TOMORROW IT WILL BE OTHER AIRPOWER..." AND CONTINUES "BOUMEDIENE AND HIS ACOLYTES" MUST RECOGNIZE THAT MAURITANIA HAS IN RECORD TIME AND FROM NOTHING BUILT A MODERN ARMY THAT CAN REPEL AGGRESSION; "LITTLE MAURITANIA" HAS AN EFFECTIVE AIR FORCE THAT RESPONDS QUICKLY. END UNCLASSIFIED, BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL (EDITOR OF CHAAB TOLD EMBOFF THAT EDITORIAL DID NOT MEAN TO IMPLY FRENCH ACTUALLY PARTICIPATED IN MILITARY OPERATIONS AND THAT THEY HAD NOT PARTICIPATED).

3. COMMENT: WHETHER GIRM HAS NOW ADOPTED POLICY OF PUBLIC DISCLOSURE TO BOTH FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC MEDIA REGARDING POLISARIO ATTACKS OR WHETHER THIS OPENNESS REFLECTS THE EUPHORIA OF A VICTORY, REMAINS TO BE SEEN. IN ANY EVENT, PUBLIC STATEMENTS REGARDING POLISARIO ACTIVITIES ARE NOW BEING ISSUED BY GIRM MINISTER OF INFORMATION. STATEMENTS TO PRESS ON BOTH DECEMBER CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NOUAKC 02941 220858Z

12 AND DECEMBER 18 ATTACKS HAVE BEEN DETAILED AND RELEASED IMMEDIATELY AFTER ATTACKS. DECEMBER 17 FRENCH AND ARABIC EDITIONS OF CHAAB GAVE EXTENSIVE PHOTO COVERAGE TO DESTROYED POLISARIO UNITS INCLUDING MANY PHOTOS OF BODIES OF DEAD POLISARIO. DECEMBER 21 CHAAB FEATURES FRONT PAGE PHOTO OF SLAIN SOLDIER WITH BANK-NOTE BEARING LEGEND "ALGERIAN CENTRAL BANK" CLEARLY VISIBLE ON HIS TORN JACKET. CAPTION READS "ONE MORE PROOF OF THE DIRECT INVOLVEMENT OF ALGERIA: THIS BANK-NOTE ISSUED BY THE ALGERIAN CENTRAL BANK WAS FOUND ON ONE OF THE MERCENARIES". AIR ATTACKS ON RETREATING POLISARIO UNITS WERE APPARENTLY WELL EXECUTED AND RESULTED IN HEAVY POLISARIO LOSSES. ON DECEMBER 16, BOTH FRENCH AND MOROCCAN EMBOFFS STATED THEY WERE VERY PLEASED WITH EFFECTIVENESS OF MOROCCAN T-6S IN PURSUING AND DESTROYING POLISARIO UNITS WHICH PARTICIPATED IN DECEMBER 12 ATTACK ON RAIL LINE. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NO INFORMATION THAT MOROCCAN F-5S RECENTLY DEPLOYED AT NOUADHIBOU (REF A) WERE USED IN PURSUIT OF DECEMBER 18 ATTACK FORCE, MOROCCAN EMBOFF PREVIOUSLY STATED THAT THESE F-5S WOULD BE USED TO REPEL ATTACKS ON RAIL LINE. (FRENCH OFFICIAL CLAIMS THAT NO TIME DID DAKAR-BASED "JAGUAR" FIGHTERS ATTACK POLISARIO COLUMN). END CONFIDENTIAL KRYZA

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMBAT OPERATIONS, RAILROADS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977NOUAKC02941
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770477-0652
Format: TEL
From: NOUAKCHOTT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771231/aaaabaet.tel
Line Count: 115
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8c2816ff-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 NOUAKCHOTT 5, 77 NOUAKCHOTT 2902
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 159236
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SAHARA WATCH: POLISARIO ATTACK RAIL LINE OUTPOST AND SUYER HEAVY LOSSES
TAGS: PBOR, SS, MR, SG, MO, AG, SA, POLISARIO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8c2816ff-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009